

REMARKS

Applicant presents the instant preliminary amendment in order to incorporate reference to priority documents. Additionally, new claims have been introduced. No new matter has been added.

New independent claim 12 recites an apparatus for transferring substrates from a first location to a second location, comprising a) a flexible conveying means; b) a plurality of transfer units mounted to said conveying means, each transfer unit being capable of holding at least two substrates; c) a cam track defining a path between said first and second locations; and d) means for driving said conveying means along said cam track. This claim is based on original claim 1 with the addition of the transfer units being capable of holding at least two substrates. Support for this feature is found in the figures and references to multiple retainers throughout the specification, such as page 55, lines 12-15. Dependent claim 13 is based on original claim 3. Dependent claim 14 is supported by the disclosure on page 55, lines 21-22. Dependent claims 15-18 are supported by figures 70 to 75, and related passages in the specification.


New independent claim 19 recites an apparatus for transferring substrates from a first location to a second location, comprising: a) a flexible conveying means; b) a plurality of transfer units mounted to said conveying means, said transfer units being capable of holding said substrates; c) a cam track defining a path between said first and second locations; and d) means for driving said conveying means along said cam track, said driving means comprising a drive pulley and an idler pulley linked together such that the drive pulley and the idler pulley move together. This claim is based on original claim 1 with the addition of further definition for the synchronized driver means. Support for this feature is found in the specification on page 53, lines 24-30.

New independent claim 21 recites an apparatus for transferring substrates from a first location to a second location, comprising: a) a flexible conveying means; b) a plurality of transfer units mounted to said conveying means, each transfer unit being adapted to rotate while being moved from said first location to said second location; c) a cam track defining a path between said first and second locations; and d) means for driving said conveying means

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along said cam track. This claim corresponds to original claim 1 with the addition of adaptation to rotate while being moved. The rotational feature is supported throughout the specification and particularly in original claims 8 and 9. The actuator features of claim 23 are described in the paragraph bridging pages 56 and 57.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 1, 2004